GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1120
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001
DEFORESTATION IN TRIBAL AREAS OF ORISSA
HEMA GAMANG

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

he steps taken by the Government to control and prevent massive deforestation in Koraput and Rayagada districts of Orissa, during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

The forest cover of the Country is monitored biennially by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), a Government of India Organisation. As per the latest `State of Forest Report (1999)` of FSI, published in the year 2000, there has been no change in the forest cover of Koraput as compared to the 1997 assessment. So far as Rayagada is concerned, compared to the 1997 assessment, there has been a slight decline of only 1 sq.km of forest cover in the 1999 assessment.

The Central and State Government have launched afforestation and development programmes in Orissa to cover more land under the forest/tree cover. The Central Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs.442.27 lakhs and Rs.987.32 lakhs for afforestation works and Rs.118.40 lakhs and Rs.38.87 lakhs for forest fire prevention and control to the Government of Orissa, during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively. The Central Government has requested the State Government to involve the local forest dwellers in the protection conservation and regeneration of forests. Guidelines on Joint Forest Management have been issued to the State Government in February 2000 for protecting the forests through involvement of local people. Guidelines for protecting the forest wealth from fires has also been issued by the Central Government in June 2000.